

ABSTRACT

When a distribution apparatus receives a distribution request packet from a new reception apparatus (300) while distributing contents to a multicast address, the distribution apparatus transmits in return a distribution acceptance packet including the multicast address under the distribution. Then, receiving a packet of contents in multicast form from the distribution apparatus (200), the reception apparatus transmits to the distribution apparatus a request for distributed data that includes the serial number of the firstly-received packet as well as a buffer size necessary for starting reproduction. The distribution apparatus then reads necessary packets from a distributed data buffer to transmit to the reception apparatus the distributed data in descending order from the serial number 51 in intervals of the multicast distribution.